

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 8-12 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claim 3, which has been canceled, and claim 7 has been amended to incorporate claim 9, which has been canceled. Claims 2 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form.

In view of the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5 and 8-11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, allowance of claims 1-2, 4-7 and 8-12 is respectfully requested.

In addition, claims 5 and 11 have been amended so that they do not depend from canceled claims.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 6, 7, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 63-247655 (hereinafter "JP '655").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that JP '655 does not disclose, teach or suggest the present invention.

JP '655 discloses a method of measuring halogen concentration comprising introducing a fluorine gas into a potassium iodide containing column to liberate iodine; using a LED light source to irradiate the combination; and calculating the concentration of fluorine from the quantity of iodine liberated. However, JP '655 does not disclose the use of metal iodide-containing solution, but rather discloses the use of an iodide-containing solid.

Specifically, in the process of JP '655, a fluorine gas is converted into an iodine gas by introducing the fluorine gas in a reaction column packed with KCl to convert the fluorine gas to

chlorine gas, then the chlorine gas is introduced into a second column packed with KI, thereby forming iodine gas and the concentration of iodine gas is measured to determine the concentration of fluorine gas, as described at page 2, first paragraph of the specification.

Claims 1 and 7 recite that "...a gas containing a halogen gas into a (continuously flowing) metal iodide-containing solution to liberate iodine...".

In contrast, in the process of JP '655, a metal iodine-containing solution is not used, but rather a column packed with solid KCl and KI are used. In addition, the fluorine gas is not introduced into the column packed with KI, but it is introduced into a column packed with KCl. Therefore, in the process of JP '655, a gas containing a halogen gas is not introduced into a metal iodide-containing solution, as recited by present claims 1 and 7.

Furthermore, claims 1 and 7 recite that "...determining quantitatively the liberated iodine by measuring a visible light transmittance of the solution at a wavelength ranging from 460 nm to 520 nm...".

JP '655 is silent with respect to the use of a metal iodine-containing solution and the determination of the quantity of liberated iodine by measuring a visible light transmittance of the solution at a wavelength ranging from 460 nm to 520 nm. To the contrary, in JP '655, the concentration of gaseous iodine, not iodine in solution, is measured.

Moreover, an object of the present invention, as described at page 6, line 26 through page 7, line 12 of the specification, has been accomplished for the first time by the present invention, as claimed in claims 1 and 7.

For at least the above reasons, JP '655 does not teach or suggest the present invention, and there is no disclosure in JP '655 that would not motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to

arrive the present invention.

Therefore, claims 1 and 7 and claims 6 and 12, which depend therefrom, are not obvious in view of JP '655.

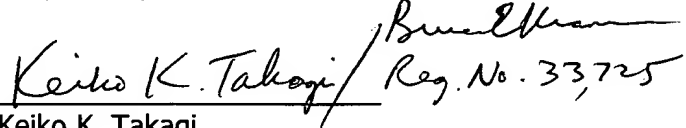
II. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2, 4-7 and 8-12 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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